

What is claimed is:

1. A medical device manufacturing and supply information management system comprising:

a Web-enabled information network;

5 a programmer; and

at least one implanted medical device, deployed from a known source, said Web-enabled information network being in bi-directional data communications scheme with the programmer, and the programmer being in data communication with said implanted medical device.

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2. The system of claim 1 wherein said Web-enabled information network implements a Global Communications and Monitoring system (GCMS).

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3. The system of claim 1 wherein said Web-enabled information network includes one of a satellite based telecommunications link and a cellular link.

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4. The system of claim 1 wherein said programmer is implemented to interface between the medical device and the Web-enabled information network via the bi-directional data communications scheme to store manufacturing information in addition to information about the at least one implanted medical device.

5. The system of claim 1 wherein said at least one implanted medical device includes one of a new implant or an old implant needing an upgrade.

6. The system of claim 1 wherein said known source includes at least one of a manufacturing center, hospital, sales office, distributor having data communications with the Web-enabled information network.

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7. A medical device inventory and production control system synchronous with various phases of product manufacturing for standard, customized and newly approved, modified/redesigned devices and to stock various consumption hubs including hospitals, sales offices, distributors and sales representatives on a just-in-time basis under a build to order and build to replenish production scheme, the system comprising:

a Web-enabled information network being in data communications with manufacturing, shipping/delivery and the various consumption hubs; and

at least one programmer being in a bi-directional communications link with the Web-enabled information network; and

15 at least one device implanted in a patient taken out of one of the consumption hubs, and having a wireless communication with the programmer to thereby route device information to the Web-enabled information network.

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20 8. A method for managing medical device inventory and production to coordinate and maintain a just-in-time inventory on a build-to-order production scheme wherein a manufacturing process and sales/distribution hubs are synchronized to track the medical device at all points in the product manufacture, sale, delivery and implantation chain, the method comprising:

providing a Web-enabled information network having bi-directional data communications with the hubs;

maintaining an inventory of the medical devices at the hubs and at a manufacturing facility;

5 updating a hub's inventory when a medical device is consumed by implementing a build-to-order and build-to-replenish scheme; and

maintaining device identity and associated patient information via a programmer interface.

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